
Neighborhood Watch Newsletter

JUNE 2006

City of Berwyn
Mayor Michael O'Connor

Berwyn Police Department
Chief William Kushner

"IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY"

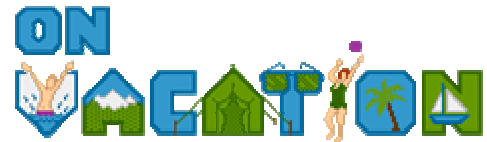
Family Vacation Fun and Safety:

Planning a family vacation? Whether your destination is Disney World, Denver, or Denmark, there are certain things you need to keep in mind. Making the trip fun and enjoyable for everyone is key; that's what it's all about. But just as important to the success of your trip will be steps you take to make it a safe one.

Before you leave:

Preventing crime during family travel starts with making sure your home is protected while you're away. The key is to make it look like you never left:

- Keep shades and blinds in their normal position.
- Do not stop mail and newspapers; ask a neighbor to pick them up every day.
- Put timers on several household lights so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
- Arrange to have grass mowed while you are gone.
- Make sure all locks on your doors and windows are in working order and use them. If you have an alarm, activate it!
- You could leave a radio on, or put it on a timer.
- Ask a neighbor to park in your driveway overnight; anything that might suggest someone's home.
- Do not forget to lock all doors and windows when you leave.



Packing for prevention:

Preparing for a family trip requires a lot of planning. You need to decide where you're going, where you'll stay and how you'll get from one place to another. You also need to decide what to take with you. Planning can decrease the chances of crime joining you on your journey. Some tips on what to take:

- Clean out your wallet or purse before you leave; take only essential credit cards. Plan to use credit cards or traveler's checks instead of cash wherever possible.
- Carry your purse close to your body, or your wallet in an inside front pocket. Better yet, take "fanny packs" or wear a money pouch under your clothes.
- Pack as lightly as possible. Lots of heavy, cumbersome bags will slow you down and make you more vulnerable to getting robbed.
- Expensive designer luggage can draw unneeded attention to your belongings. Pack your things in inconspicuous bags.
- Keep a separate record of the contents of checked luggage. Keep anything of value such as medicine and jewelry in a carry-on that stays with you.
- If you are going on an extended vacation, consider shipping large bags to your destination in advance. For the return trip, mail bulky new purchases home, or ask merchants to do it for you.

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Out and about:

Your home is secured and you're packed. Now it's time to go. While you and your family are traveling, it's important to remember that tourists make tempting targets for thieves. Often lost or distracted, weighed down with bags, and carrying cameras, tickets and money, unsuspecting travelers attract crime like a magnet.

The best advice for you and your family is to do all you can to blend in with the crowd.

- Do not display expensive jewelry, cameras, bags, and other items that might draw attention.
- Check maps before you go out so you can tour confidently.
- Stick to well-lighted, well-traveled streets at all times; do not take shortcuts.
- Always lock your car when it's parked, even if the stop is brief. Keep valuables out of sight, preferably locked in the trunk. Don't advertise that you're a tourist by leaving maps and guidebooks on the seat or dashboard; keep them in the glove compartment.
- **Contact The Berwyn Police Department at 795-5600 and request a "Premise Watch".** The following information is needed: How long you will be gone? Names of persons who will be watching your home and who to contact in the case of an emergency. *Any questions please contact Unit Commander Frank Cimaglia at extension 106.*

Traveling safely with your family also means sticking together and keeping an eye on your children at all times. Make sure they know the name and address of where you are staying and teach them what to do if they get lost or separated. You might want to agree on a meeting place, just in case. And by all means, make sure your kids know not to accept rides or favors from strangers.



Make your family vacation a memorable one for all the right reasons.

BEWARE – Jury Duty Scam:

(Repeat Article from October 2005 Newsletter)

Why? Because it's on the rise, please inform your neighbors and family members young and old alike. Scammers are using the Jury Duty scam to commit identity theft Here's how it works:

- The scammer calls claiming to work for the local court and claims you have failed to report for jury duty. He tells you that a warrant has been issued for your arrest.
- The victim will often rightly claim they never received the jury duty notification. The scammer then asks the victim for confidential information for "verification" purposes.
- Specifically, the scammer asks for the victim's Social Security number, birth date, and sometimes even for credit card numbers and other private information -- exactly what the scammer needs to commit identity theft.
- It's easy to see why this works. The victim is clearly caught off guard, and is understandably upset at the prospect of a warrant being issued for his or her arrest. So, the victim is much less likely to be vigilant about protecting their confidential information.

In reality, court workers will never call you to ask for social security numbers and other private information. In fact, most courts follow up via U.S. mail and rarely, if ever, call prospective jurors.

Action:

Never give out your Social Security number, credit card numbers or other personal confidential information when you receive a telephone call.

This jury duty scam is the latest in a series of identity theft scams where scammers use the phone to try to get people to reveal their Social Security number, credit card numbers or other personal confidential information.

It doesn't matter *why* they are calling -- all the reasons are just different variants of the same scam.

Drug Dealers BEWARE:

The Berwyn Police Department takes a very aggressive position in narcotics investigations.

Working hard with the community is the best way to locate and to eliminate drug activity early. With your assistance we hope to keep drug dealers out of our community. Please supply us with as much information as possible about the drug activity you're reporting.

e-mail

DrugEnforcementInfo@berwyn.il.gov

Or Contact any of your Neighborhood Watch liaison officers.

Please locate your zone and liaison below:

- **Zone #1** Roosevelt to Cermak / Harlem to Wesley (west side of street)
 - **Zone #2** Roosevelt to Cermak / Wesley (east side of street) to Lombard
- (Zones 1 & 2) Det. Louis Mazza 795- 2153
Lmazza@ci.berwyn.il.us

- **Zone #3** Cermak to BNSF tracks / Harlem to Wesley (west side of street)

Unit Commander Frank Cimaglia 795-2106
Fcimaglia@ci.berwyn.il.us

- **Zone #4** Cermak to BNSF tracks / Wesley (east side of street) to Lombard
- Detective Joe Santangelo 795-2151
Jsantangelo@ci.berwyn.il.us

- **Zone #5** BNSF tracks to Pershing Rd. / Harlem to Wesley (west side of street)
- Detective Joe Green 795-2152
Jgreen@ci.berwyn.il.us

- **Zone #6** BNSF tracks to Pershing Rd / Wesley (east side of street) to Lombard
- Detective Michael Vokac 795-2112
Mvokac@ci.berwyn.il.us

Tip!

If you are working on the front lawn
KEEP THE BACK DOOR LOCKED!

Bicycle Security and Theft:

It's that time of year

A bicycle can be stolen from anywhere at anytime. Simple precautions can stop most criminals. The majority of bicycles stolen are not locked or properly secured.



Taking simple precautions can prevent bicycle thefts, in many cases.

- Properly secure your bike to a stationary object using an alloy hardened "U"-type lock preferably.
- Secure bike to a bicycle rack or secured fixed object in a frequently traveled, well-lit area.
- Record the make, model, and serial number and keep this with sales receipt and a picture of the bike in a safe place.
- Report your stolen bicycle to Berwyn Police Department as soon as possible.
- Report suspicious persons observed near bicycle racks.

Mark your bicycle with an engraver to deter theft and assist police with returning your bicycle if stolen. The City of Berwyn has an engraver that is available to Community members through Neighborhood Watch's "Operation Identification" program. Please contact Jeanmarie Hajer: 788-2660 extension 290 or Jhajer@ci.berwyn.il.us

Two New Additions to the Berwyn P.D.

One year old "ASKO" and 13 month "EBO" are the two new additions to the Berwyn Police Dept. They are Belgium Malinois pronounced (MAL-in-wah) and are straight from Holland. Asko and Ebo, named in their homeland, are currently enrolled in the Cook County **K-9 academy** where they will be joined by their Berwyn Handlers on June 12th. Asko and Ebo are the first two of four K-9 additions for the Police Dept. and will be duty ready by August 1st. Our K-9's will be an intricate part of our drug eradication efforts in Berwyn. Here's some information on the breed. The Belgian Malinois is a medium size dog of exceptional beauty and working ability used for many purposes, including herding, tracking, agility, obedience, and police work. To the inexperienced eye, they may seem to resemble the German Shepherd Dog, but upon closer inspection, many differences may be seen including size, bone structure, color, and head and ear shape. The Belgian Malinois is generally a lighter, quicker, more agile dog.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS- JULY

Monday, July 10th, 7pm -- Zones 1-3
Monday, July 17th 7pm -- Zones 4-6
Berwyn Police Dept. – 6401 W. 31st



Comments or Suggestions regarding the Neighborhood Watch Newsletter can be made to Unit Commander Frank Cimaglia: 795-5600 ext. 106 or FCimaglia@ci.berwyn.il.us

National Night Out

August 1st, 5:00p.m.



National Night Out is an annual event designed to:

- ◆ Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- ◆ Generate support and participation in anti-crime efforts
- ◆ Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community relations
- ◆ Send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back

Some of the events scheduled:

Demonstrations by the Berwyn Police & Fire Departments, Cook County Bomb Squad, Illinois State Police Crime Scene Investigation (C.S.I.) Unit and K-9 Unit. There will be a Bicycle Rodeo-Safety & Bike registration, Project Kid-Care (Child fingerprinting), Fireworks, “Movie after Dark”, Live Band, Food and much more.

Berwyn Night at U.S. Cellular Field

September 21, 2006 – 7:05pm
Save \$9 per ticket -\$19each (Reg. \$28)
White Sox vs. Seattle Mariners
More info – Jeanmarie Hajer 788-2660 x290
or www.berwyn-il.gov

White Sox World Series Trophy Tour

Presented by U.S. Cellular

Friday, June 23rd

Janura Park – 28th & East Ave.

11am – 2 pm

A suggested \$10 cash donation per party, which will benefit Chicago White Sox Charities and the United Way, is requested for all visitors. Fans will need to provide their own cameras to take advantage of this photo opportunity.

Cartopia

June 24th Cermak Plaza
Parade 1pm
www.berwyncartopia.com

Fireworks are illegal !!

You can receive up to a \$750. fine for possession of fireworks.

BE SAFE THIS SUMMER !



Fireworks – Tuesday, July 4th
Morton West Stadium –
Approx. 9pm